



March 14, 2017

GLOBAL AND STRATEGIC VIEW

Iraqi forces face tough resistance in advance on Mosul's Old City

Reuters, Mar. 13

Iraqi forces battling Islamic State faced tough resistance from snipers and mortar rounds on Monday as they tried to advance on Mosul's Old City and a bridge across the Tigris River in their campaign to retake the western part of the city.

Afghans Who Worked for U.S. Are Told Not to Apply for Visas

New York Times, Mar. 11

Afghans who worked for the American military and government are being told that they cannot apply for special visas to the United States, even though Afghanistan is not among the countries listed in the new travel ban.

Fierce ISIS Counter attacks threatens U.S. gains in Iraq

Daily Caller, Mar. 12

Iraqi Security Forces say that different units saw retaking areas as "a competition," leading to brash decisions that cost the lives of troops and civilians. ISIS snipers and car bombers threatened to force back hard-fought gains in Western Mosul, where the fighting has only worsened.

How U.S. and Iraqi forces plan to stop Islamic State drones

Christian Science Monitor Online, Mar. 10

When she was embedded with Iraqi soldiers in Mosul last fall, researcher Vera Mironova says the Islamic State regularly buzzed her unit with camera-equipped drones to record information on troop movements.

THREAT NETWORKS

Al-Qaida-linked group claims deadly attack in Syrian capital

Associated Press, Mar. 12

An al-Qaida-linked group claimed responsibility for twin blasts near holy shrines frequented by Shiites in Damascus that killed at least 40 people as a suspected airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition killed at least 17 in northern Syria.

Author Delves Motivates ISIS Supporters

PBS Newshour, Mar. 12

In "The Way of Strangers: Encounters with the Islamic State," author Graeme Wood tells the story of Islamic State supporters around the world, including an American who is said to be among the group's leaders.

Naxals used Rambo-inspired explosive arrowheads

The New Indian Express, Mar. 13

The IED arrows were designed using thermite, chlorine trifluoride, and white phosphorus for creating high intensity blasts when set off.

Nine suspected ISIS Linked Militants Arrested Indonesian Sulawesi Island

The International Business Times, Mar. 12

Police reportedly seized bomb-making materials from the place the suspects were hiding out.

ISIS using messenger app to avoid detection in Pakistan

Economic Times, Mar. 12

ISIS is dodging authorities by using a messenger app to communicate instead of calling each other to avoid detection.

Pradesh Breeding Ground ISIS recruits

Daily Mail, Mar. 12

Uttar Pradesh is becoming a breeding ground for young Islamic State supporters.

COUNTER-UAS

Iran jamming device takes drone warfare to next level

Washington Times, Mar. 13

Iran has deployed a new counter-drone weapon — a rifle-shaped jamming device that the regime says can electronically separate a remotely piloted aircraft from its command pilot and even reprogram it to turn on its owner.

DHS seeks counter UAS Platform for Tech Assessment Program

The Intelligent, Mar. 12

The Department of Homeland Security has kicked off a search for developers of counter unmanned aerial systems technologies to participate in technology assessments.

WORLDWIDE IED EVENTS

Twin blasts kill 40 near religious sites in Syria's capital

Associated Press, Mar. 11

Twin blasts near holy shrines frequented by Shiites in Damascus killed at least 40 people and wounded over a hundred, most of them Iraqis, according to Syrian and Iraqi officials.

Somalia TV staff wounded in Mogadishu car bomb blast

Garow Online, Mar. 12

A local TV cameraman working for UK-based Somali channel, Universal TV has been critically wounded in car bomb blast in Mogadishu.

Bomb blast damages bridge in Gwadar

The Nation, Mar. 12

A bridge was partially damaged in an IED blast at Costal Highway near Sarband Road in Gwadar.

Two suicide bombers killed in Nigeria

New Indian Express, Mar. 12

Two suspected female suicide bombers were shot and killed by security agents.

1 Injured in IED blast in Northwest Pakistan

The Hindu, Mar. 12

One person was injured in an IED blast in northwest Pakistan's restive Kurram tribal agency which borders Afghanistan.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Robots, exoskeletons, and invisible planes

Harvard Gazette Online, Mar. 9

When Steven H. Walker, acting director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), spoke at Harvard he first reminded his listeners just how much his agency, which develops technology for the military, has accomplished.